

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated antigenic composition, which composition comprises

(i) a first antigen, which first antigen comprises at least part of an isolated protein of *Streptococcus equi* subsp *equi*, which protein is designated EAG and which at least part of said protein comprises at least one antigenic epitope or antigenic determinant of *Streptococcus equi*, and

which first antigen comprises at least the N-terminal amino acid sequence of EAG, which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

(ii) a second antigen, which second antigen comprises at least part of an isolated protein of *Streptococcus equi*, which protein is designated SEC and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, and which at least part of said protein comprises at least one antigenic epitope or antigenic determinant of *Streptococcus equi*, and

which second antigen comprises at least the N-terminal collagen-binding part of SEC which comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-303 in SEQ ID NO:22, and

(iii) a third antigen, which third antigen comprises at least part of an isolated protein of *Streptococcus equi*, which protein is designated ScIC and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:23 and which at least part of said protein comprises at least one antigenic epitope or antigenic determinant of *Streptococcus equi*, and

which third antigen comprises at least the immunogenic fragment of SclC, which fragment comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-233 in SEQ ID NO:27.

2. (Currently Amended) The isolated antigenic composition of claim 1, wherein said ~~antigens are comprised of~~ consist of the N-terminal part of EAG in accordance with claim 1 (i), the collagen-binding part of SEC in accordance with claim 1 (ii), which collagen binding part comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-303 in SEQ ID NO:22 and the immunogenic fragment of SclC in accordance with claim 1 (iii), which fragment is designated SCL C1 and provokes production of antibodies, and which fragment comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-233 in SEQ ID NO:27.

3. (Currently Amended) The isolated antigenic composition of claim 1, wherein said collagen binding part of SEC comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-590 in SEQ ID NO:20 and is designated SEC2.16.

4. (Currently Amended) The isolated antigenic composition of claim 1, wherein said ~~third antigen is comprised of~~ consists of SCL C1 comprising the amino acid sequence of amino acids 2-233 in SEQ ID NO: 27.

5. (Currently Amended) The isolated antigenic composition of claim 1, which (iv) comprises at least one further antigen that comprises an isolated protein

Streptococcus equi or a part of said protein, which part comprises at least one antigenic epitope or antigenic determinant of *Streptococcus equi*, and which protein is selected from the group consisting of

(a) an isolated protein designated FNZ which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or an N-terminal fibronectin-binding part of FNZ comprising the amino acid sequence of amino acids 4-309 in SEQ ID NO:13, and

(b) an isolated protein designated SFS which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or a part of SFS comprising the amino acid sequence of amino acids 3-121 in SEQ ID NO:10 .

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A vaccine~~ An immunizing composition, which comprises the antigenic composition of claim 1 as an immunizing component, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The vaccine~~ immunizing composition of claim 7, which further comprises an adjuvant.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The vaccine~~ immunizing composition of claim 7, which is

provided in a physiologically administrable form and suitably is administrable by subcutaneous or intranasal inoculation.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method for preparation of ~~a vaccine~~ an immunizing composition for ~~protecting~~ immunizing non-human mammals against infection of *Streptococcus equi*, which ~~vaccine~~ immunizing composition contains the antigenic composition of claim 1, which antigenic composition comprises antigens, which antigens are prepared in accordance with a method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a DNA fragment encoding said antigen and introducing said fragment into an expression vector;
- (b) introducing said vector, which contains said DNA fragment, into a compatible host cell;
- (c) culturing said host cell provided in step (b) under conditions required for expression of the antigen encoded by said DNA fragment; and
- (d) isolating the expressed antigen from the cultured host cell, and, optionally,
- (e) purifying the isolated product from step (d) by affinity chromatography or other chromatographic methods known in the art and

which method comprises mixing said antigenic composition with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for preparation of ~~a vaccine~~ an immunizing composition, which ~~vaccine~~ contains as immunizing component, an antigenic composition of claim 1, said method comprising mixing said antigenic composition and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of an antiserum, said method comprising administering an antigenic preparation of claim 1 to an animal host to produce antibodies in said animal host and recovering antiserum containing said antibodies produced in said animal host.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~prophylactic~~ immunizing or therapeutic treatment of *S. equi* infection in non-human mammals, ~~suitably horses~~, comprising administering to said mammal an immunologically effective amount of ~~a vaccine~~ the immunizing composition of claim 7.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~protecting~~ immunizing horses against *Streptococcus equi* infection, which comprises inoculating a horse ~~subcutaneously or intranasally~~ with ~~a vaccine~~ the immunizing composition of claim 7 to induce an immune response against *Streptococcus equi* in said horse.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein an immune response in the form of IgG and/or IgA and/or IgM antibodies in the nasopharyngeal mucus is induced in said horse.

19. (Withdrawn) Monoclonal antibodies against antigen(s) of the composition of claim 1.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~vaccine~~ immunizing composition of claim 7, which further comprises an adjuvant.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of *S. equi* infection in non-human mammals, comprising administering to said mammal an immunologically effective amount of an antiserum produced according to claim 15.

23. (New) The immunizing composition of claim 7 which reduces severity of *S. equi* infection in non-human mammals.

24. (New) The method of claim 16, where the non-human mammals comprise horses.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the horse is inoculated subcutaneously or intranasally.